

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 416, 25 April 2025

## Events

**Events** have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <https://seapn.org.uk/events/>.

## Congratulations!

### The Activist Museum Award 2025

<https://le.ac.uk/rcmg/research-archive/activist-museum-award>

(Source: Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG) *Newsletter* #010, Apr 2025)

“The Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG), in the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester, is delighted to announce the awardees of the sixth round of the Activist Museum Award [...]

For the Activist Museum Award 2025, the panel awarded Sado Jirde of the Black South West Network the UK Activist Museum Award, and Museo Textil de Oaxaca, Mexico the International Activist Museum Award.”

Black South West Network – see: <https://www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/>

Museo Textil de Oaxaca – see: <https://museotextildeoaxaca.org/>.

## Climate emergency/the environment – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

### “Natural History Museum funds UK-wide climate work”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/02/natural-history-museum-funds-uk-wide-climate-work/#msdyntrid=cLXs7Qb-Q2TTAQZqbU8-B7kJ9SkqfQsnfvq--vZr3Gk>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 4 Mar 2025)

“London’s Natural History Museum (NHM) has announced a programme to support museums and other cultural organisations to engage communities with the climate crisis.

The initiative will help 12 organisations across the UK to run activities focused on biodiversity decline, climate change and pollution. NHM is providing grants ranging from £2,500 to £10,000 and will also provide other resources such as content from Fixing Our Broken Planet, a new gallery that will open at its South Kensington home in April.”

The programme partners are:

- Climate Museum UK / Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- World Museum, Liverpool
- Cromarty Courthouse Museum
- Hereford Museum & Art Gallery
- National Coal Mining Museum for England, Wakefield

- Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum
- Creswell Crags, Worksop
- Hastings Museum and Art Gallery
- Manchester Museum
- Shetland Amenity Trust
- Global Diversity Foundation, Llandysul
- Metronomes Steel Orchestra, London.

### **Cost of living crisis/poverty – Other Agencies**

#### **“Number of children in poverty rises by 200,000 to record level”**

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/number-of-children-in-poverty-rises-by-200-000-to-record-level>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 27 Mar 2025)

Just in case you haven't seen this:

“The number of children living in poverty has increased by 200,000 to a record high of 4.5 million, government figures have revealed.

The figures show that after housing costs the proportion of the UK's 14.5m children who are living in low-income households has increased from 30% in the 12 months to the end of March 2023 to 31% over the same period in 2024.

This has seen the number of children living in poverty rise from 4.3m to 4.5m, the highest level since comparable data has been available.”

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### ***The challenge of ethnic wealth inequalities: building an understanding – evidence from community reporting***

[https://media.equality-trust.out.re/uploads/2025/04/LSE\\_ChallengeEthnicWealth.pdf](https://media.equality-trust.out.re/uploads/2025/04/LSE_ChallengeEthnicWealth.pdf)

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, 9 Apr 2025)

Important new research report:

“This paper is part of a project called “The Challenge of Ethnic Wealth Inequalities: Building Understanding” funded by the British Academy which aims to build a better understanding of how different ethnic groups have been able to build wealth while others have not and how this may have changed over time.” [p4]

It draws together evidence from “[...] Storytellers [who] were asked to draw from their personal perspectives and experience to provide their understanding about what wealth means, the barriers racialised communities face in building wealth and their suggestions of what can enable them to do so. [p4]

Examples include:

- Ensure wage equity which keeps in pace with the cost of living
- Improving access to financial education and literacy

- Address assumptions and ideology of wealth and wealth accumulation
- Intersectionality
- Develop programs and systems that support collective wealth-building.

**“Young people who are not in education, employment, or training – what does the data tell us?”**

[https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/young-people-who-are-not-in-education-employment-or-training-what-does-the-data-tell-us/?mpk=e844fb4626a350c4e151d161ba913e8212de340839854049db93c535b81e733733a2bcfcc70a322e6a49a190c1646ac6\\_f922d4730fd5ef83182b0564dc4f7087](https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/young-people-who-are-not-in-education-employment-or-training-what-does-the-data-tell-us/?mpk=e844fb4626a350c4e151d161ba913e8212de340839854049db93c535b81e733733a2bcfcc70a322e6a49a190c1646ac6_f922d4730fd5ef83182b0564dc4f7087)

(Source: Learning and Work Institute *Newsletter*, Apr 2025)

New briefing from the Learning and Work Institute:

“Thirteen per cent of all 16–24-year-olds in the UK are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This equates to nearly one million young people who are not currently learning or earning. The long-term scarring impact of being NEET for a sustained period of time on young people, society, and the economy, is well known. It is therefore of particular concern that 48% of young people in the UK are still not in education, employment or training a year after they first become NEET, equating to more than 360,000 young people likely to experience the long-term impacts of being out of work or education. A young person’s previous experience of employment matters; 58% of NEET young people in the UK have never had a paid job.

This briefing from Learning and Work Institute provides an overview of the scale of how many NEET young people there are in the UK, what the characteristics of NEET young people are, and the differences in opportunity between different areas of England.”

**Older people and ageism issues – Other Agencies**

**“Understanding differing experiences of ageing”**

<https://ageing-better.org.uk/blogs/understanding-differing-experiences-ageing>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 10 Apr 2025)

Report from one session at The Age-Friendly Futures Summit, which “[...] focussed on how the experience of ageing affects different sections of the community in different ways, including the LGBT+, learning disabilities and refugee communities.”

**Migration issues – Other Agencies**

***Safe and secure routes: refugee visa-to-travel proposal***

[https://saferoutes.care4calais.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Safe-and-Secure-Routes\\_Refugee-Visa-to-Travel-Report.pdf](https://saferoutes.care4calais.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Safe-and-Secure-Routes_Refugee-Visa-to-Travel-Report.pdf)

(Source: email from Care4Calais, 27 Mar 2025)

New paper from Care4Calais, which argues that:

“Research from the UNHCR, shows that ‘the majority of men, women and children who cross the Channel in small boats are likely to be recognised as needing protection as a result of an asylum claim and allowed to remain in the UK.’ We must act then to honour our

responsibilities towards people wanting to use their humanitarian right to claim asylum here.

Over the last decade different policies have been introduced under the banner of reducing these crossings. These so-called deterrents include the Illegal Migration Act, the Safety of Rwanda Act, and the proposed Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill – which includes increased policing of the border, and criminalisation of refugees.

None of these policies have worked [...]

Therefore, this paper's key proposals are:

- Analysis, trial and implementation of a Safe Routes Visa-to-Travel Scheme, to allow refugees to enter the UK safely and begin their asylum claim.
- Greater investment in the Home Office – to ensure staff in the department have the time, space and resources to properly determine visa-to-travel requests; free from political pressure and interference.
- Immigration detention centre reform, so refugees are helped rather than punished; and to provide a working environment wherein staff can produce better outcomes and a supportive environment for refugees.” [p4]

### **“What Britons and Europeans really think about immigration – new analysis”**

[https://theconversation.com/what-britons-and-europeans-really-think-about-immigration-new-analysis-252268?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2031%202025%20-%203318033888&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2031%202025%20-%203318033888+CID\\_77f1f455f6dc53c45078609148c4862d&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=What%20Britons%20and%20Europeans%20really%20think%20about%20immigration%20%20new%20analysis](https://theconversation.com/what-britons-and-europeans-really-think-about-immigration-new-analysis-252268?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2031%202025%20-%203318033888&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2031%202025%20-%203318033888+CID_77f1f455f6dc53c45078609148c4862d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=What%20Britons%20and%20Europeans%20really%20think%20about%20immigration%20%20new%20analysis)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 1 Apr 2025)

Interesting article from the thinktank ODI Europe:

“When we hear about immigration from politicians and media across Europe, the story is almost always negative. In some countries, this is old news. The UK tabloid press has printed thousands of anti-migrant articles over the last two decades [...]

At ODI Europe, my colleagues and I have been studying public attitudes and political narratives around migration across Europe for five years. Our analysis has found that, compared to 20 years ago, more Europeans (in many, but not all countries) feel immigration makes their country a better place to live.

Positive attitudes have particularly increased in Ireland, the UK, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland. Similar positive trends emerge when the public is asked about the economic and cultural impacts of immigration.”

**“Europeans have more flexible views on how to respond to irregular migrants than policymakers think – new research”**

[https://theconversation.com/europeans-have-more-flexible-views-on-how-to-respond-to-irregular-migrants-than-policymakers-think-new-research-253473?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%202025%20-%203321433920&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%202025%20-%203321433920+CID\\_206b7336d0e01023c8de0ace57027099&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_europe&utm\\_term=Europeans%20have%20more%20flexible%20views%20on%20how%20to%20respond%20to%20irregular%20migrants%20than%20policymakers%20think%20%20new%20research](https://theconversation.com/europeans-have-more-flexible-views-on-how-to-respond-to-irregular-migrants-than-policymakers-think-new-research-253473?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%202025%20-%203321433920&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%202025%20-%203321433920+CID_206b7336d0e01023c8de0ace57027099&utm_source=campaign_monitor_europe&utm_term=Europeans%20have%20more%20flexible%20views%20on%20how%20to%20respond%20to%20irregular%20migrants%20than%20policymakers%20think%20%20new%20research)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 3 Apr 2025)

Interesting article:

“With an estimated minimum of 2.6 to 3.2 million irregular migrants in Europe and fierce public debates about them, policymakers face the difficult question of how to ensure migrants’ basic rights of protection from exploitation, destitution and ill health while also establishing effective migration controls. However, we know surprisingly little about how Europeans think about this policy dilemma.

In our study, the first of its kind in Europe, we surveyed 20,000 people across Austria, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and the UK to understand their preferences on policies regarding access to healthcare, social welfare and labour protections, as well as the obtainment of regular legal status or ‘regularisation’ for irregular migrants.

The results challenge the idea that public attitudes toward irregular migrants’ rights are simply ‘for’ or ‘against’. Instead, we find that variations in policy design matter – and when policies include both migration controls and protections for migrants, public support often increases.”

**“Has the government really 'returned' 24,000 people?”**

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyw8jw11jwo?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=Wed+09+Apr+2025&utm\\_campaign=Free+Movement+Weekly+Newsletter](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyw8jw11jwo?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Wed+09+Apr+2025&utm_campaign=Free+Movement+Weekly+Newsletter)

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 7 Apr 2025)

A BBC Verify report:

“Sir Keir Starmer has highlighted his government efforts to tackle illegal immigration, saying: ‘We’ve returned more than 24,000 people who have no right to be here.’ [...]

But the claim is misleading. The government's latest figures show that only 6,339 of these were 'enforced returns'. The majority were 'voluntary returns' - and a significant number of these happen without the government's direct involvement or even knowledge."

### **"Briefing: the sorry state of the UK asylum system"**

<https://freemovement.org.uk/briefing-the-sorry-state-of-the-uk-asylum-system/>

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 17 Apr 2025)

New briefing from Free Movement.

One particularly interesting bit of info is the table showing the "Top ten nationalities arriving by small boat in 2024" – these include:

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| • Afghanistan | • Sudan  |
| • Syria       | • Iraq   |
| • Iran        | • Turkey |
| • Vietnam     | • Yemen  |
| • Eritrea     | • Kuwait |

... the last two don't usually show up in these tables, so worth looking at what's happening there and also whether people from these countries are arriving in your area.

### **"Europe's elderly need migrant caregivers – whether we like it or not"**

[https://theconversation.com/europes-elderly-need-migrant-caregivers-whether-we-like-it-or-not-250121?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=The%20Conversation%20Europe%2017042024&utm\\_content=The%20Conversation%20Europe%2017042024+CID\\_44962a014cf87e1b37aaa38359ff7238&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_europe&utm\\_term=Europes%20elderly%20need%20migrant%20caregivers%20%20whether%20we%20like%20it%20or%20not](https://theconversation.com/europes-elderly-need-migrant-caregivers-whether-we-like-it-or-not-250121?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Conversation%20Europe%2017042024&utm_content=The%20Conversation%20Europe%2017042024+CID_44962a014cf87e1b37aaa38359ff7238&utm_source=campaign_monitor_europe&utm_term=Europes%20elderly%20need%20migrant%20caregivers%20%20whether%20we%20like%20it%20or%20not)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 17 Apr 2025)

Important assessment of the current position:

"The bottom line is this: Europe's population is getting older, and without migrant workers, millions of families will struggle to find care for their loved ones. Europe must support and protect workers, both migrant and local, in the care system for its own sake."

### **LGBTQ+ issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### **"Trump administration removes gender dysphoria from protected list of disabilities"**

<https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/04/17/us-department-of-health-gender-dysphoria-disability/>

(Source: *PinkNews*, 17 Apr 2025)

"Gender dysphoria will no longer to be a disability protected under US federal law and won't be recognised by the Department of Health and Human Services."